[*English*]

Withdrawal of Ration Rice Subsidy

4400. SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have withdrawn the subsidy in rice supplied through ration shops; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the estimated amount to be saved by this withdrawal;

(d) whether the Government propose to continue subsidy in rationed rice to some poor States like Kerala; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) and (e). There is no proposal to change the existing policy.

[*Translation*]

New Train between Ahmedabad and Bombay

4401. SHRI RATILAL VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand has been made to introduce a new train between Ahmedabad and Bombay; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Examined but not found feasible at present.

[*English*]

Opening of Degree College and Polytechnics in Delhi

4402. SHRI DHARAMPAL SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open a degree college and polytechnics in Najafgarh area in Delhi during 1991-92;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) According to the information furnished by Delhi Administration, the existing polytechnics in Delhi also cater to the needs of the Najafgarh area. Delhi Administration is exploring the feasibility of opening a Degree College in Najafgarh during the year 1992-93.

Talcher-Sambalpur line

4403. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:
SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in con-

struction of Talcher-Sambalpur railway line in Orissa;

(b) the funds earmarked for that line during 1992-93 financial year; and

(c) when the project is likely to be completed and opened for traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) 25% upto 12/91.

(b) Rs. 20.00 crores.

(c) The expected date of completion is 3/94.

Epidemics in Tribal Areas

4404. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN:
SHRI RABI RAY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have inquired into the causes of the recent outbreak of epidemics in tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for prevention of such epidemics in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The recent Outbreaks or epidemics in tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa were investigated by teams of experts from National Institute of Communicable Diseases and Indian Council of Medical Research. In most of the cases the outbreak of gastroenteritis and cholera epidemic were found to have been caused by contamination of drinking water sources. Flooding of sludging of garbage/excreta, poor socio-economic conditions, lack of personal hygiene and insufficient health education further aggravated the problem.

(c) Health being a State subject, it is for the State Governments to take appropriate action to prevent such epidemics. However, whenever the technical teams from National Institute of Communicable Diseases/Indian Council of Medical Research visited the affected areas, they have made suitable suggestions/recommendations to the local Health Authorities regarding necessary preventive measures to be taken.

Quota of Berths at Pathankot

4405 SHRI D.D. KHANORIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allot quota of berths at Pathankot in all trains running via Pathankot;

(b) if so, the details thereof: and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Reservation quotas have already been allotted at Pathankot in trains having reserved accommodation and provided stoppage at this station.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Damage to Railway Property

4406. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: